

## 5. Traffic Management Elements

There are four traffic management elements, described here, which are used to slow traffic on residential streets and to encourage correct driving behavior. The first three are currently in use in Belmont. The fourth, traffic calming, is covered by this program.

### 5.1. Education

Traffic speed education currently consists of three primary methods:

**School Presentations** – traffic safety officers conduct presentations at elementary, middle and high schools in the community. Elementary school presentations are geared towards keeping children safe, but also have an element of getting messages home to parents. Middle school and high school presentations are geared towards developing in new drivers a proper respect for traffic laws and understanding the dangers of inappropriate driving behavior.

**Publicity** – traffic safety programs at community events, flyers to residents, newspaper press releases and articles and cable TV broadcasts are all used to get the message to adult drivers of the dangers of speeding and other inappropriate driving behavior.

**Speed Trailer** – the Police Department will deploy the speed display trailer in areas where speed is a recurring problem. The trailer advises drivers how fast they are going, with a display showing the speed limit. This method is effective, but does not last when the speed trailer is removed.

### 5.2. Enforcement

Traffic enforcement duties are the primary responsibility of the Belmont Police Department. Directed Traffic Enforcement (DTE) is handled by uniformed patrol personnel who assist with traffic enforcement when not responding to other calls. DTE often results from a series of traffic complaints or from a request for Traffic Control or Traffic Calming as an early step in the process. DTE is determined either by the Police Department based on frequency of complaints or by the Traffic Safety Committee when a request is evaluated.

Traffic complaints received by the Police Department are reviewed by the Division Commander, logged for future reference and assigned to a unit for resolution. The Administrative Sergeant assigns the complaint to a uniformed officer who personally contacts the reporting party to discuss the matter and its resolution. Solutions can include education, DTE, radar speed trailer deployment, other enforcement as appropriate, or referral to the Traffic Safety Committee for traffic engineering of control or calming measures. Enforcement can result in a verbal warning or a citation, which is forwarded to the courts for disposition. Enforcement often includes elements of education and may lead to additional traffic engineering.

### 5.3. Traffic Control

Traffic control is the traditional method of controlling the speed of traffic. Traffic control consists of signs, striping, pavement markings and traffic signals. Traffic controls are authorized by state law and by local ordinance. Warrants are required for installation of regulatory traffic controls such as stop signs, speed limit signs and traffic signals. The City cannot add a stop sign, change a speed limit or add or modify a traffic signal without first conducting an engineering study to determine if warrants are met.

Traffic controls are a tool for controlling traffic speeds, but are not included in this program because they are adequately covered by standard traffic control manuals, such as the Traffic Manual (Caltrans) and the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (Federal Highway Administration).

### 5.4. Traffic Calming Measures

This program deals with the fourth element of traffic speed management, traffic calming. The toolbox of measures available for traffic calming are shown in Appendix A. Each measure has its own purpose and location on a street, or in a street system. Each application for traffic calming will evaluate the appropriateness of each measure based on the physical nature of the street, and the current use of the street. Detailed design of each measure will follow established design guidelines used by other government agencies.